

20 Sioux Trl
Pensacola, FL 32506

Molly Holt
U.S. Dept. of Commerce
1305 East-West Highway, Room 6111
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Molly Holt:

I am writing to support the state of Ohio's denial of Coastal Consistency of the Barnes Nursery project dug in Sheldon Marsh wetland complex in July of 2000. I feel strongly that the rights and due process of the law were denied to the people of Ohio. The dike and channel project Barnes Nursery illegally began in 2000 has already noticeably disrupted this preserve for 3 growing seasons. It is illegal and would never have been approved if the proper agencies had been consulted and allowed to review the project. The intentional bypass of critical agency reviews is a testament to the ill intentions of Barnes Nursery and as a result, environmental degradation is apparent and will only worsen until the preserve is restored to its original state.

Alternative water sources do exist for the Barnes Nursery and should have been thoroughly considered before damaging the marsh. I understand that ponds existed on the property in the 1960's for this same purpose. Similar structures could be built providing Barnes the water they insist is the purpose of their project without being inconsistent with the coastal management plan. The purchase of county water should also be considered.

As a frequent visitor to the town of Huron and the Sheldon Marsh preserve I am requesting your support in the effort to deny the Coastal Consistency of the Barnes Nursery Project dug in Sheldon Marsh wetland. After reviewing the time line of events surrounding this issue I am appalled at Barnes Nursery's attempt to manipulate the system for their personal gain. I understand that this is a precedence setting case and would like to know that the state of Ohio's property is protected from projects to benefit private businesses with no apparent regard for the environmental integrity of the state's precious resources. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Respectfully,

Matthew Zoch